

COUNTRY USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

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SUBJECT Soviet Troops and Installations in the Taurage Area

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PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED, ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Taurage.

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- 1. [REDACTED] the old barracks installation in Taurage ($55^{\circ}14'N/22^{\circ}15'E$), which is located at the large street intersection in the town center, quartered a unit of soldiers who wore red epaulets and were armed with carbines.
- 2. In the fall of 1950, the new barracks installation near the post office in the eastern section of the town was occupied by a unit, which was referred to as a border guard unit by Lithuanian residents. Troops observed there wore dark-green epaulets and were armed with submachine guns exclusively.
- 3. A line of concrete pillboxes and emplacements was under construction on either side of the street to Shaulyai ($55^{\circ}55'N/23^{\circ}17'E$), in the area from 5 to 10 km northeast of Taurage, at the end of 1950. Work on this project was still in progress in May 1951. The contours of concrete bunkers were clearly recognizable in the woods lining the street. It was rumored that an old Soviet line of defensive installations was being improved. *

25X1X Heydekrug.

4. In March 1951, a Soviet unit of 250 to 300 men arrived in Heydekrug ($55^{\circ}20'N/21^{\circ}22'E$) and was quartered in a four-story building at 9 Partisanenstrasse, which previously quartered an MVD unit. Personnel of the unit wore ruby-colored epaulets and were armed with carbines and light machine guns. Soldiers stated that the unit had previously been stationed in Vilnyus ($54^{\circ}38'N/25^{\circ}15'E$).

5. Members of the 1929 through 1931 classes in Heydekrug were registered for the draft in March 1951. For the first time they included ethnic Germans living in the Memel River Region. About two weeks following the registration, those classified fit for military service were assembled in front of the recruiting office on Stadtmannstrasse and subsequently taken to the railroad station under an escort of military personnel. According to rumors, the inductees were shipped to Vilnyus and then to Kovno ($54^{\circ}37'N/25^{\circ}25'E$) to receive basic training. It was said that they would later be transferred to the interior of the U.S.S.R. *

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. In 1940, after Lithuania had been annexed to the U.S.S.R., the Soviets started building a line of defensive installations between Palanga and Alitus. This line ran a short distance to the east of Taurage and consisted primarily of field fortifications, with only a few concrete emplacements on the principal lines of west-east communication. The construction work mentioned in the present report is credible in view of the Soviet practice to fortify border areas even if they are not exposed to aggression. The report has not been substantiated, however.

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment. The information on the induction does not agree with information from the other portions of the U.S.S.R., where the induction of the majority of the 1931 class was completed and the registration of the 1932 class was in progress by May 1951. However, previous information indicates that inductions in the former Baltic states lags behind that in the U.S.S.R. by six months to one year.

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Age: 19 1/2	
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